

Region 7
Serving Berkeley, Charleston
& Dorchester Counties

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 06
July, 2005 - June, 2006

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PROMOTE



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A Message from the Health Director

Health Issues in Region 7

Leading Health Indicators

- Physical Activity

- Overweight & Obesity

- Tobacco Use

- Responsible Sexual Behavior

- Injury & Violence

- Immunization

- Environmental Quality

- Access to Health Care

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I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Region 7 of the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) for the Fiscal Year 2006. This annual report presents a summary of our major public health programs and services as well as a financial overview.

The focus of this report is on eight of the ten Leading Health Indicators outlined by the federal government in our national efforts toward reaching the Healthy People 2010 goals, and the steps we took during the year to improve in these areas. The Leading Health Indicators are ten priority public health issues designated by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. These ten priority issues are intended to

Ten Leading Health Indicators

- Physical Activity
- Overweight and Obesity
- Tobacco Use
- Substance Abuse
- Responsible Sexual Behavior
- Mental Health
- Injury and Violence
- Environmental Quality
- Immunization
- Access to Health Care

help us understand the most important changes we can make to improve our health. Each of the Leading Health Indicators is an important issue by itself. Together, they help us to understand that there are many factors that influence the health of the public. While DHEC addresses each of the ten issues, several are more fully addressed by other state or county agencies. Substance abuse and mental health are more completely addressed by other agencies. For the injury and violence and access to health care indicators, DHEC plays a key role together with the S.C. Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, the S.C. Department of Social Services, the S.C. Highway Patrol and S.A.F.E Kids, among others.

The citizens of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties receive excellent service from the staff who provide the essential public health services and programs. This year's Annual Report conveys the excellence of the health services and the commitment by all the staff in the Region. Public Health is a complex, multi-faceted effort that requires the cooperation of many people in many organizations at the local, state and federal levels.

I hope that reading about these important and fundamental health services that are provided by Region 7 will help you understand the important role we play in helping everyone in our three counties to live longer and healthier.

John Simkovich, DDS, MHA
Region 7 Health Director

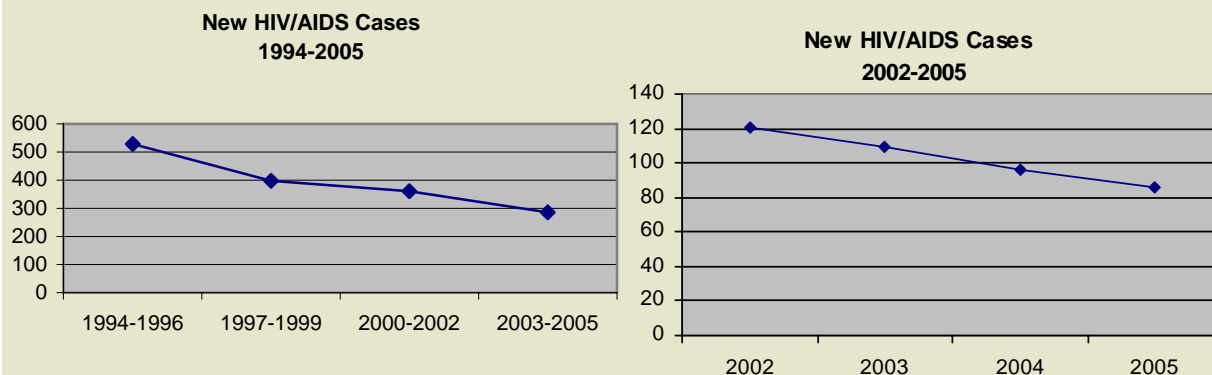
The health of people living in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties continues to improve in many respects. Yet there is so much more we as individuals and groups can do to improve even further.

Flu and pneumonia are diseases that are highly preventable with vaccinations. Yet, almost 2,100 people were hospitalized in Region 7 in 2005 with these diseases. These two diseases were also responsible for 3,928 visits to an emergency room that same year. Among people over age 65, for whom the flu and pneumonia vaccines are highly recommended, over 30% do not get a shot to protect them.

Diabetes continues to be a major health problem. According to the 2005 BRFSS, 8.7% of the people surveyed in Region 7 reported having been told by a doctor that they have diabetes. It was the 6th leading cause of death for our three counties in 2004. While the number of people admitted to the hospital has decreased slightly over the past five years, from 1,062 to 981, the number of people visiting an emergency room has increased by 108 visits. In South Carolina, African-Americans have a disproportionate prevalence of diabetes. The overall incidence in SC is 10.3% according to the BRFSS, the second worse in the United States in 2005, and the rate among Blacks in the state is 14.9%.

People with hypertension, or high blood pressure, have three to four times the risk of developing heart disease than those without high blood pressure. Locally, 26% of the adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties have been told that they have high blood pressure. That means that over one quarter of our residents are at increased risk for stroke, heart attacks, heart failure and kidney failure. Being overweight or obese, drinking too much, using too much salt, and not being physically active all contribute to the risk of having hypertension. Yet, in spite of those risk factors being behaviors that can be changed, 54.5% of the people living in the area covered by Region 7 do not get the recommended minimum amount of physical activity each week. Additionally, almost 6% of the people responding to the BRFSS in our area reported being heavy drinkers and almost 15% reported being binge drinkers and almost two-thirds of the people in South Carolina are overweight or obese.

HIV/AIDS remains another important public health problem. The year 2006 marked the 25th anniversary of the start of the AIDS epidemic and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 40,000 Americans still become infected with HIV each year. The spread of this disease, too, can be slowed or prevented with behavior changes. The proper and consistent use of condoms when engaging in sexual intercourse can greatly reduce a person's risk of acquiring or transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. In Region 7 we have seen a



Flu and pneumonia, diabetes, hypertension and HIV/AIDS are each among the top 10 causes of death in Region 7. But there are steps we can take to reduce the incidence of these diseases. We are working to address these issues, as well as many others in the actions we take toward improving the leading health indicators.

Regular physical activity is important to having a healthy life. It decreases the risk of death from heart disease, helps prevent diabetes and hypertension and has been associated with reduced risk from some cancers. In addition to reducing the risk of several serious diseases, it aids in weight control, increases muscle and bone strength, and improves flexibility.

Yet, in spite of the proven benefits of even moderate regular physical activity, only 45.5% of adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties participate in the recommended amount of exercise each week (30 minutes or more of moderate physical activity five or more days per week, or 20 minutes or more of vigorous activity three or more days per week).

To help children develop an interest in physical activity and maintain it throughout their lives, our Health Promotion staff was able to expand their Kids In Motion program to nine sites during the 2005-2006 school year. Our Kids In Motion program was initiated in 2003 to educate children on the dangers of being overweight or obese, generate awareness of how to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle, and assist them in dealing with self-esteem and social issues. The program includes physical activity and nutrition educational components for children in 3rd through 8th grade in two separate one hour session each week during the school year. During fiscal year 06, Region 7 entered into partnership with Community In Schools of Charleston to provide train the trainer training and technical support for physical activity in four schools on Johns Island that offered the Kids In Motion program.

The Health Promotion staff of Region 7 also provided technical support and supplies to Community Health Advisors for REACH 2010, a diabetes initiative housed at MUSC, so they could promote the need for increasing physical activity to individuals with diabetes.

Being overweight or obese contributes to many preventable causes of death. People who are overweight or obese increase their risk of having high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease and stroke.

Eating a healthy diet and getting regular physical activity are key to maintaining a healthy weight. But, over three-fourths of all adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties eat less than the recommended five fruits or vegetables each day. Over 22% did not participate in any physical activity in a month.

Our Kids in Motion Program outlined above helps us address this issue in children.

The use of tobacco results in more deaths each year in the United States than any other cause. Tobacco-related deaths account for 430,000 deaths each year among adults in our country. Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke and lung cancer. It can also lead to premature births. It is not just smokers who suffer. Secondhand smoke exposure can cause heart disease and lung cancer in nonsmoking adults and is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks in infants and children according to the Surgeon General's 2006 report.

Cigarette smoking is the leading and most preventable cause of death and disease. Yet according to the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), in the three counties covered by Region 7 almost 21% of all adults are current smokers. To help the people who live in our three counties, our Health Promotion staff undertook activities in three key categories; cessation, youth access to tobacco, and policy/environmental.

Cessation:

- 777 internal medicine, family practice, OB/GYN, allergy and dental practices have been introduced to the *US Public Health Services Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence* and the *SC Quit for Keeps* toll free line through mail outs. This led to 5 provider settings requesting and receiving the *US Public Health Services Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence* training. Those trained included DDS, MD, NP, RN and assistants.
- Eight clinic sites with a total of 99 regional personal have been trained on the *US Public Health Services Clinical Practice Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*.
- Tobacco staff received 86 referrals from Health Care Providers for smoking cessation instruction and follow up, and 146 self-referrals.
- Seven series of American Cancer Society *Fresh Start* Classes (4 classes per series.) with 49 individuals participating were held. Participants requested more than the four class series offered in the *Fresh Start* Program, so the American Lung Associations' *Freedom From Smoking (FFS)* Program, which is a series of 7 classes, was adopted. A total of two series of *FFS* have been offered with 14 participants, resulting in 11 quitters. The total number of quitters for this grant project, from both cessation programs was 45.
- Cessation has led to policy/environmental awareness with management of one worksite cessation group exploring smoke free policy.

Youth Access to Tobacco:

- Region 7 partnered with the Dorchester Drug and Alcohol Commission, Kennedy Center, and Smoke Free Lowcountry Coalition through funding from a grant to host six *PREP: Palmetto Retailers Education Programs*. *PREP* is a merchant education program that focuses on increased merchant compliance with state laws in regards to selling alcohol and tobacco products to minors. Two of our Regional staff were also trained in *PREP*.

Policy/Environmental:

- Region 7 conducted a survey of 53% (643 out of 1199) of the restaurants in Charleston County by telephone and mail. Survey results found that 65 % of the survey restaurants are smoke free (417). *Smoke Free Dining is Just Good Taste* business kits were distributed to restaurants requesting additional information on smoke free establishments.
- Region 7 is an active member of the Smoke Free Low county Coalition and the Smoke Free Lowcountry Campaign. The campaign's focus is to protect the health of Charleston County residents, workers, and visitors from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke through local ordinances that would make indoor public places and workplaces, including bars and restaurants, 100% smoke free. Through these two partnerships, smokefree workplace advertising messages (bill boards, print, TV and radio) were run.

Encouraging responsible sexual behaviors helps prevent unintended pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV. The personal choices made in the actions and activities associated with responsible sexual behaviors have a significant impact on health status.

About half of all pregnancies in the US each year are unintended. Unintended pregnancies contribute to an increased risk of low birth weight babies. Women with unplanned or unwanted pregnancies often begin prenatal care late in the pregnancy, if at all. Close to 30% of all births in the three counties were to unmarried mothers. Teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 have a disproportionate number of pregnancies. While according to the US 2000 Census, 7.4% of all women in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties were 15-19 years old, they represented almost 12% of all births that occurred in 2004.

The family planning program for Region 7 was able to help 11,350 women during the fiscal year, about 12% more than the previous year. Of our total clients during the fiscal year, 18% were between the ages of 15 and 18.

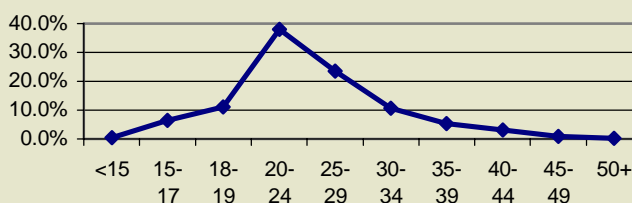
The largest percentage of our clients, 42%, are eligible for the Medicaid Waiver insurance coverage. Approximately one third of our clients are not covered by insurance and are unable to pay any portion of the cost of their exam or birth control method.

A special initiative was able to be implemented in Region 7 due to grant funding from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS). The Integration of HIV/AIDS Prevention Services grant is designed to enhance and promote routine HIV counseling and testing in the Family Planning Clinic. The program is intended to increase the number of women and their partners who are tested for HIV. Those testing positive receive on site counseling and treatment referrals to convenient, well-accepted and accessible facilities. Education groups are conducted weekly to provide participants with up-to-date, scientifically sound HIV/AIDS/STD health information. As a result of this grant we were able to test 1,066 individuals.

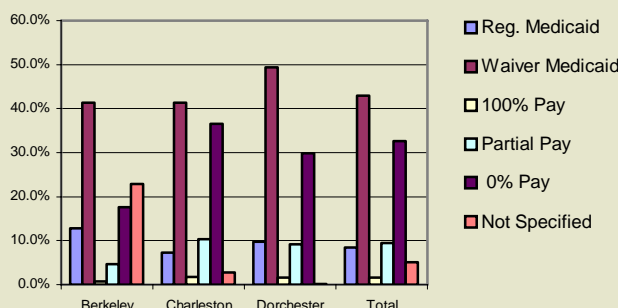
According to the National Institutes for Health (NIH), five of the ten most commonly reported infectious disease in the U.S. are sexually transmitted diseases. These STD's affect 15 million people in the country each year and can cause acute illness and impact long term health. Hepatitis B can become chronic and lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. The human papilloma virus (HPV) is associated with cervical cancer. And while significant progress has been made in prolonging the life span of someone diagnosed with HIV, the virus still leads to severe, life-threatening illness.

By diagnosing and treating STD's at one of our clinics in each county we try to reduce the spread of these diseases. We also have Disease Investigation Specialists who work with people who are infected so their sexual partners can be identified and notified of possible exposures. Combined, these services work to stop further community transmission and prevent many of the more serious long-term effects of sexually transmitted diseases.

**Family Planning Age Ranges
Total Region 7**



Family Planning Payment Type



Over 400 people in the United States die each and every day from injuries resulting primarily from motor vehicle crashes, firearm shootings, falls, fires, poisonings, suffocations and drowning. Close to 28% of all visits to an emergency department in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties in 2005 were due to accidents, including poisoning, or violence.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children in the United States. In the area covered by Region 7, motor vehicle accidents were responsible for 23% of the deaths in children 14 or under from 2002-2004. They were the second leading cause for emergency room visits for children under 18. Of the children in the U.S. who were killed in motor vehicle crashes during 2004, half were unrestrained. Placing children in age- and size-appropriate restraint systems reduces serious and fatal injuries by more than half. Our Health Promotion staff work in partnership with S.A.F.E Kids in conducting car seat safety checks.

Through a partnership with Berkeley County School District, we received funding to place two social workers in middle schools in Berkeley county to address truancy. Poor academic performance is a risk factor for youth violence & commitment to school is a resiliency factor for youth violence. If you aren't in school, you aren't learning. Truancy is an early sign of trouble. Predicts school dropout, & juvenile crime which is a beginning for some of adult criminality. Reading level affects the ability to understand treatment plans & medication instructions.

Among the greatest achievements in public health in the 20th century are vaccines. Immunizations can prevent illness and death from many infectious diseases and help control the spread of infections within communities. Thanks to vaccinations, polio has been eliminated from the U.S. and deaths from many childhood illness such as measles are at an all time low.

Childhood immunizations required to attend school and daycare in South Carolina were offered at six of the eight clinics operated by Region 7. Based on a survey conducted by SC DHEC in 2000, 87.3% of two year old children in the state had received the recommended vaccinations. This has helped to limit the number of children who become sick from infectious diseases such as chicken pox, mumps, measles, rubella and diphtheria.



Flu and pneumonia are diseases experienced by many people each year. While these illnesses are highly preventable with an annual flu shot, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), over 31% of people aged 65 or over do not get a flu shot and almost 35% have never had a pneumonia vaccination. Flu and pneumonia shots are offered at all of our clinics as well as at numerous community locations. During the fiscal year, we provided flu vaccinations to 6,976 people.

In the United States, working to ensure safe food, effective waste management and control of vector borne illnesses has contributed greatly to the decrease in the number of people who die from infectious diseases each year.

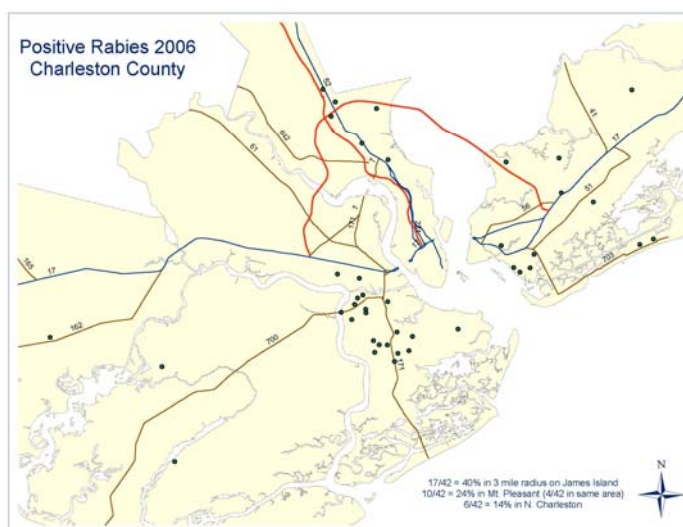
Environmental health services provided by Region 7 include food safety inspections at all establishments that sell prepared food to the public and training restaurant staff in proper food handling and hygiene. There are over 2,400 of these establishments in the region, and each facility is inspected at least once per year. Because of the efforts behind promoting food safety, we experience far fewer cases of salmonella, e. coli, or campylobacter than in the past. During 2006 our Food Protection staff completed 9,177 inspections.

Our environmental health staff works with homeowners and developers to permit and inspect on-site wastewater systems. We provide site evaluations, system designs and construction permits. Staff are also available to provide technical assessments of existing system failures and recommendations for the methods to repair. For 2006 our staff helped residents of the three counties by providing over 14,000 inspections.

Environmental health staff also help to control the spread of vector borne diseases. They monitor and investigate all animal bites to people to ensure that no resident of Berkeley, Charleston or Dorchester counties dies from rabies. They collect dead crows and blue jays and sample a limited number of sites for mosquitoes so that the SC DHEC lab can test for West Nile Virus. Working closely with the county mosquito abatement programs, where available, we are able to let people know if and where West Nile Virus has been found and how to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

In 2006 a total of 13 birds and 32 pools of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile Virus, all in Charleston County. Most of the birds and all of the mosquitoes that tested positive were collected from the West Ashley area of Charleston county. The remaining birds were collected near the Park Circle area of Charleston county.

Our vector borne disease staff in the three counties also investigated over 2,000 reports of animal bites and possible exposure to rabid animals. A total of 456 animals were sent for testing, with 53 animals testing positive for the rabies virus. Due to exposure to some of these rabid animals, 101 people in the three counties received rabies prophylaxis treatment to ensure they did not develop the disease. The cost to the State of South Carolina for providing this treatment in Region 7 was approximately \$100,000.



Note: Reporting of Environmental Health information is by calendar year, not the state fiscal year.

Access to health services is impacted by whether a person or family has health insurance, has an ongoing provider of primary care, and is able to overcome financial, structural or personal barriers that limit access to health care.



According to the 2005 BRFSS almost 18% of the people residing in our three counties did not have health insurance coverage. To help these many people, Region 7 operated eight clinics that offer a range of preventive health services. These clinics are open to everyone and will not refuse service to anyone who cannot pay. We also have family planning outreach staff that can help women apply for the Medicaid Waiver, an expanded form of Medicaid insurance that may be possible even if the woman does not qualify for regular Medicaid coverage. We also work with Medicaid outreach programs by letting their staff come to our clinics to enroll people. Region 7 services are preventive services, we do not provide primary care. However,

our staff work with our clients to find primary care providers when a referral is needed.

A project initiated by one of our Region 7 social workers, Med-I-Assist, has been helping many people in the area with prescription drug assistance for several years. From the project initiation at just one site, East Cooper Community Outreach, to the end of fiscal year 06, it had expanded to eight locations. Volunteers at each location work with clients who cannot afford their medications, and who have no prescription insurance coverage, to navigate the various drug manufacturers indigent patient assistance programs. Additionally, most of the eight locations that have implemented the program also have emergency prescription funds for immediate assistance as the process of working with the pharmaceutical firms can take up to 10 weeks.

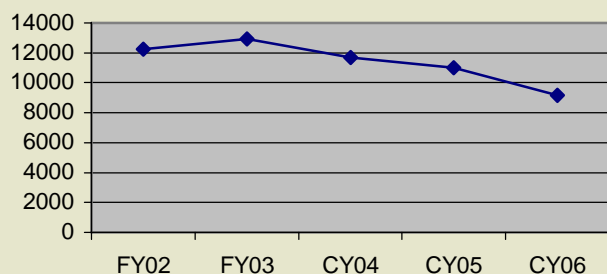
Many children with special needs are at risk of not being able to receive the help they need. Our BabyNet and Children's Rehabilitative Services are programs designed to help these families. Our staff link parents with the people and services their children need. Our local BabyNet program continued strong outreach efforts so that children throughout our three counties can get the help they need. These efforts have resulted in an increase of over 200% in the active caseload for the program as compared to five years ago.



- We have been able to increase the number of women that we serve with our family planning services because of several key changes in the procedures and operations of the program. We now have at least one preventive health nurse at each site. This means that the nurses are now able to perform exams that previously required a nurse practitioner. Additionally, we have Saturday appointments available at two clinics monthly. We are using part-time fee-for-service staff for these special Saturday clinics in order to avoid having to reduce appointments other days of the week. A third key change has been the shift to providing prescriptions for the preferred birth control method. This reduces the number of return visits needed by our clients, in turn allowing for more appointments available to new clients.
- The region experienced a decrease of almost \$1.3 million dollars in earned revenues for the fiscal year as a result of changes to Medicaid insurance reimbursements. Family Support Services, a service provided to Medicaid clients that allows nurses, health educators, and nutritionists to work with families to improve their health, experienced dramatic reductions in allowable Medicaid billings. Family planning also experienced a decline in funds they were able to generate through Enhanced Family Planning services due to changes in Medicaid allowable billing.
- In September, 2005, Region 7 staff joined the area hospitals, Charleston County EMS, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force to prepare to receive evacuees from New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. While the plane originally destined for Charleston, SC was routed to Charleston, WV, this did present an opportunity for the whole community to practice how we would actually interface should we confront a disaster locally.
- During the fiscal year Region 7 staff were contacted at least 219 times by members of the media. We provided staff locally for 91 interviews to serve the three local television stations, the Post & Courier, radio, cable access programs and weekly newspapers. One-third of the media contacts were related to just two subjects, rabies and flu. Overall, rabies, West Nile virus, flu, HIV/AIDS, pertussis, pandemic flu and immunizations accounted for almost 60% of all media contacts.



Total Food Protection Inspections

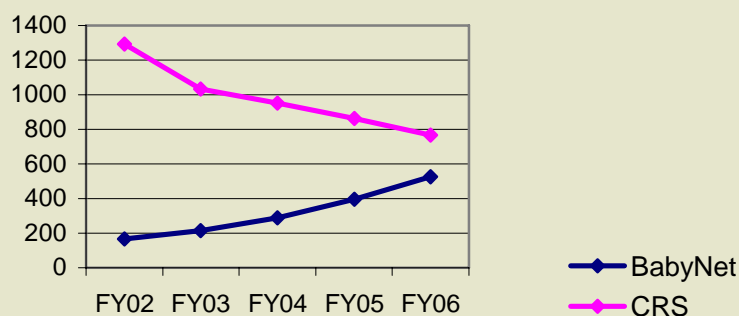


- Turnover associated with natural attrition, the retirements associated with the TERI program, and recruiting and training delays have had a significant impact on the productivity of the Food Protection Program. This impact is expected to continue for at least the remainder of 2007. This has meant fewer people available for an ever increasing workload as the lowcountry continues its rapid growth.

BabyNet is a program for babies up to three years of age who need special help learning to see, hear or walk. The program spent much of the year working to increase productivity due to the increased referrals

The **Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS)** program enables the families of children with certain long-term illnesses or special needs ensure the children get the care they need. Our CRS active caseload has been steadily decreasing over the past five years.

BabyNet & CRS Active Caseloads



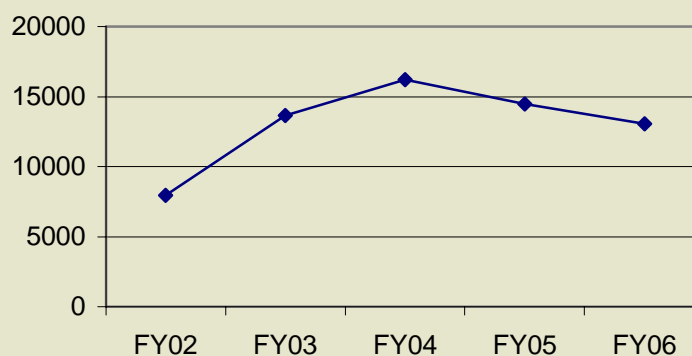
The CRS program supported an ongoing community based

“Tween Diabetes Support Group” for children 10-16 yrs old. Each meeting has an educational and social component. Region 7 also supported Region 8 with their metabolic program thru use of our Metabolic Nutritionist. The focus for the coming fiscal year for CRS will be working to develop community partners that can assist with meeting the needs of children with special needs.

Child health visits to families homes is offered as part of the **Postpartum Newborn Home Visit (PPNHV)** program, and as part of **First Steps** in Berkeley and Charleston counties. Fiscal Year 2006 was the third year for Region 7 staff providing home visits under contract with First Steps. We provided 702 visits to help families better address health and development issues that may affect a child's learning later in life. A satisfaction study was conducted among clients of the First Step program in Berkeley county. According to the survey results, 93% of the families that received our home visiting services found our staff supportive, knowledgeable and skilled and felt that their family was better off for having the service provided to them. Under the PPNHV program we provided 100 home visits for mothers with newborns.

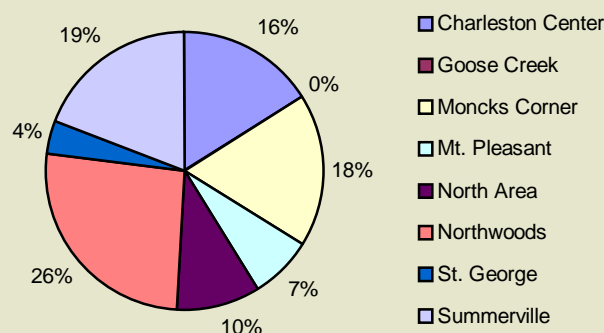
Home health care is offered by SC DHEC for people who cannot leave their homes due to illness or injury. Services must be ordered by a doctor and include visits by nurses and therapists. The Region 7 home health program continued to meet the state goal of providing 100% of our admissions within 48 hours of receiving a physician referral. We were able to improve on that with actually providing 54% of our admissions within 24 hours of receiving a referral.

Home Health Visits



Region 7 continued to operate eight clinics during fiscal year 2006; two in Berkeley county, four in Charleston county, and two in Dorchester county. Programs and services available at our clinics are family planning, Women's, Infants & Children Nutrition Program (WIC), childhood and adult services that include immunizations, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS. Our St. George clinic in Dorchester counties was open to appointments for family planning only. Changes to our services during the year included discontinuing childhood immunizations at our Mt. Pleasant clinic, and eliminating family planning services at our Goose Creek clinic as the number of people utilizing these services at these locations continued to decline.

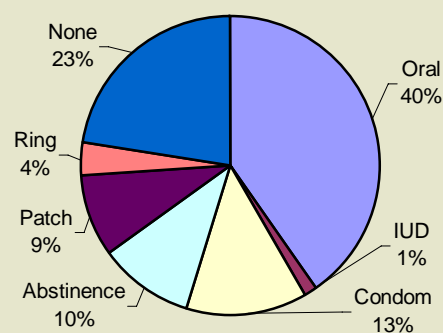
Family Planning Clinic Visits



Our Family Planning program saw a significant increase in the number of clinic appointments over the previous year. This was lead by Summerville, with a 44.2% increase, followed by Charleston Center with almost a 31% increase. While Northwoods saw an increase of 18.2% in the number of family planning visits, the facility is unable to expand the program further due to space and staff constraints.

Oral contraceptives are the most preferred method of birth control for our region, with over 38% of our clients choosing this method. About 21% of our clients do not use any form of birth control, 12% use condoms, and about 10% choose DepoProvera.

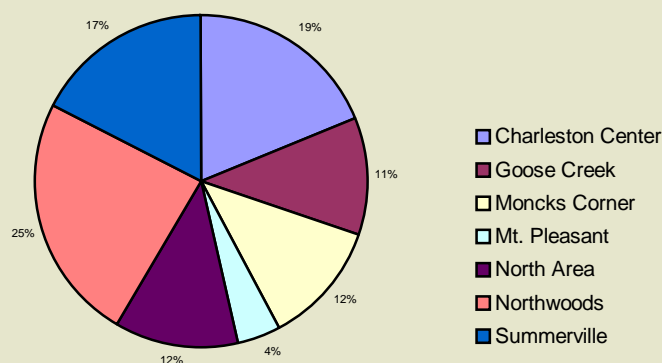
Preferred Forms of Contraception



The WIC program is offered at all of our clinic locations except St. George. While demand among area residents for WIC varied among the seven clinic locations, overall the demand changed little from previous years. The Summerville clinic saw almost an 18% increase in their average caseload, offsetting the discontinuation of WIC in St. George in FY05. Northwoods experienced about a 5% increase, with any further possible increase at that location limited by available space and staff.

The WIC classes offered via a kiosk in the clinic lobbies has become increasingly popular. Fiscal year 2004-2005 was the first full year with the kiosks available, and they were used 6,505 times that year. That number grew to 10,242 during the current fiscal year.

Average WIC Clinic Caseload



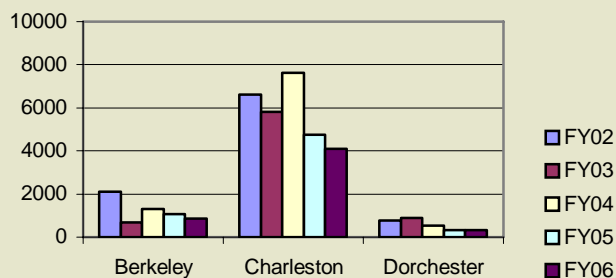
Demand for our adult health services remained relatively consistent with the previous year. Staff at four of our clinics provide TB services. The majority of TB services are now provided as directly observed therapy in the community rather than as a clinic service.

Our major locations for staff providing HIV/AIDS services are Charleston Center and Northwoods, although we do provide the services at our Moncks Corner and Summerville locations as well. The region experienced an increase in the number of HIV/AIDS related visits over the prior year, with a slight decrease over a five year period. Total clinic visits staff provided for STD's were essentially the same in Charleston county as the previous year and increased by over 21% at our Moncks Corner clinic location.

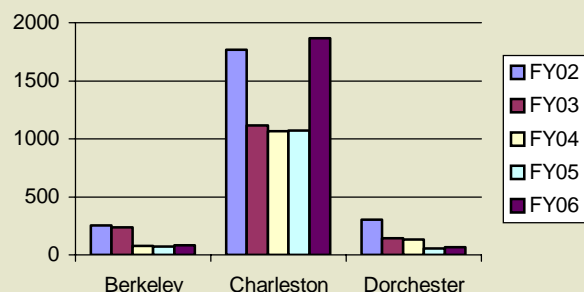
The trend in the number of childhood immunizations we provide is still declining at all clinic locations, except Goose Creek. Overall, the region had about 13% fewer clinic visits for shots in FY06 as compared to FY05, and a 51.3% decrease over a five year period. Part of this decrease is due to discontinuing the childhood immunizations program at our Mt. Pleasant clinic during the fiscal year. Our Goose Creek clinic provided more shots in FY06 than in FY05 and is now providing almost 4% more shots than they did in FY02. This same pattern holds true for the number of immunization certificates for school and daycare attendance that we issued. In Fiscal Year 2006 we issued a total of 4,464 certificates in the region as compared to 19,015 in Fiscal Year 2002.

At the end of the fiscal year we discontinued immunizations for international travel. The service is provided by at least three other physician practices in Charleston county, and after three years of budget cuts and other financial and staff pressures, international travel shots were no longer a service we could afford to provide.

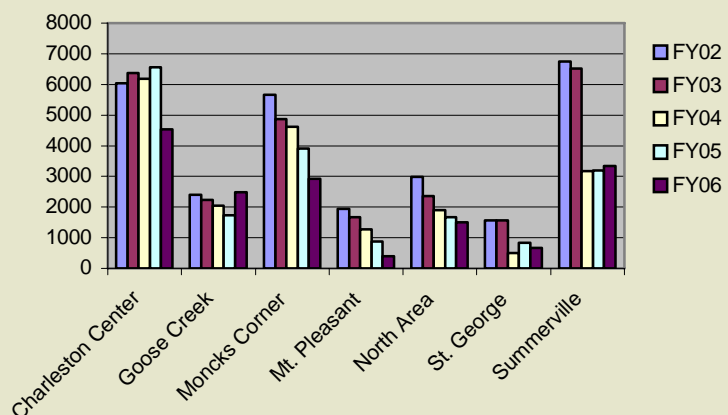
Total TB Visits



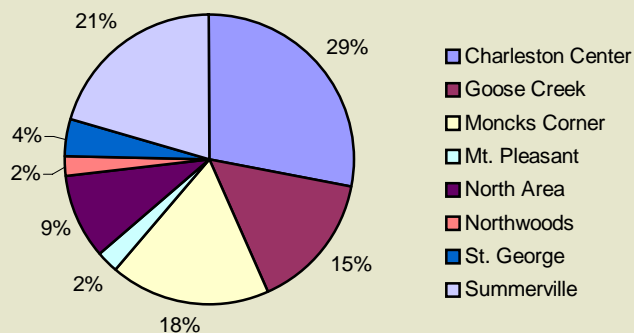
HIV Client Visits



Immunization Visits 5 Year Trend



Immunization Clinic Visits



- In April, 2006, a case of pulmonary tuberculosis was confirmed in a person associated with Fort Dorchester High School in Dorchester county. As Region 7 staff conducted the contact investigation, we tested about 140 contacts who were also associated with the school. While several of the tests were read positive, all of those individuals had either lived in or traveled to areas in the world where TB is a high risk. Because of that history, there was no way to determine the cause of the positive test. Treatment was recommended for each person who tested positive.
- During 2006 we experienced a significant increase in the number of Cryptosporidiosis reported. We expect to see an increase in the summer as more people enjoy water activities. However, between May 1st and September 5th there were 47 cases reported, as compared to seven in all 12 months of 2005. As our Epi team investigated these reports we found that 27 of the 47, or 57%, of those who were sick, had been to a public pool or water park. Several others were household contacts of those who were sick and had been to a public pool or water park. By the end of 2006, a total of 88 cases of the disease had been reported in the region.
- A cluster of pertussis became apparent in Dorchester County in August. Two cases were initially reported at a summer day camp, potentially exposing up to 300 people. Preventive treatment was recommended to anyone who had worked at or attended the camp during a two week period in July. A linked case was then identified at a day care. By early August, a cluster that first began in 2005 had grown to 27 cases in a five mile area in Summerville.
- In October, a cluster of 14 cases of varicella had been reported at Flowertown Elementary School in Dorchester county. A letter was sent to the parents of all children at the school notifying them of the cases and requesting that they keep their children home if they are sick and that they make sure their children's immunizations were up to date.
- In November we experienced an outbreak of varicella at St. George Middle School, also in Dorchester County. A total of 31 cases were reported at the school beginning in September and peaking in early to mid November. A letter was sent to the parents of all children at the school notifying them of the cases and requesting that they keep their children home if they are sick and that they make sure their children's immunizations were up to date. The school also utilized their call system to phone each family. Region 7 provided education about varicella and ways to prevent its spread in each class, and special arrangements were made to provide vaccinations at the local health clinic.
- Including the outbreaks at the two schools, the total number of varicella cases in the region reached 130, 233% more than the previous year.
- Reports of Strep Pneumoniae experienced a significant increase at 73 as compared to 49 in 2005 and 35 in 2004. This is a very common disease that is vaccine preventable. Increases can most likely be attributed to improved reporting, increase in drug resistant strains, and fewer adults over the age of 65 receiving the vaccine.

Note: Reporting of infectious diseases is conducted by calendar year, not the state fiscal year. The Disease Investigation information report is based on the time period 1/1/06-12/31/06. The data used is preliminary data as of January, 2007.

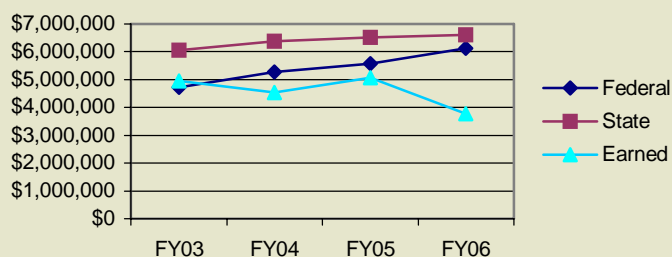
The cost of operating public health in Region 7 for the people of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties has remained relatively consistent over the past three years. Funding from the state of South Carolina and from the federal government remain the largest sources of income. Together they represent 75% of the funds needed to provide public health services for the three counties.

We received funding from the U.S. government to help support many of our programs. Over 35% of our federal funding is provided to implement the Women, Infant's and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC). All of the funding allocated for bioterrorism/public health preparedness (BT/PHP) efforts, \$787,571, is received from the federal government. WIC and BT/PHP together with family planning account for almost 60% of the federal funding we receive.

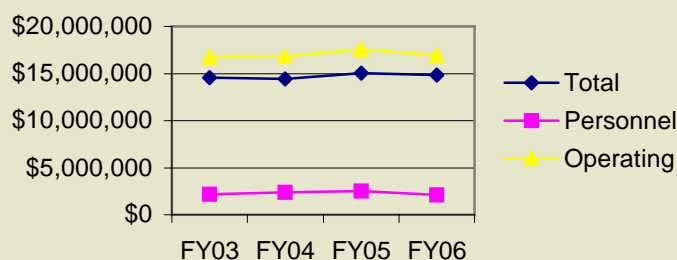
Revenues generated within the region from billing for certain services, primarily family planning and home health, account for the third largest source of funds at 22%.

The cost of staff to operate Region 7 represents over 87% of our total expenditures. Our staffing level for FY06 was relatively consistent to the prior year. Nursing professionals represent the largest discipline among our staff at 26% of all staff positions. Staff to operate our clinics represent 51.5% of all our staff, with our Charleston Center clinic accounting for over 14% of all personnel.

Largest Source of Funding



Expense Distribution



Budget By Program

